and Air Force. In the interim period, Air Force is working on a proposal for update of MIG aircrafts.

Petroleum facility at Bhusawal

426. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Defence has huge petroleum storage facility at Bhusawal in Maharashtra known as IRPD;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this facility has become redundant; and

(c) if so, whether the Defence will handover this facility to oil company or STC or Government of Maharashtra for effective use ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) to (c) To meet the operational requirement of Army for Petroleum products, storage depot at Bhusawal in Maharashtra exists which is being utilised for the said purpose. There is no proposal to handover this Depot to any other Agency.

Defence co-operation with Kuwait

427. DR. SANJAYA SINH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Kuwait is keen on expanding Defence Cooperation with India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the response of Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) to (c) Enquiries have been received from Kuwait for supply of Defence stores. Certain interest in Indian Training Courses has also been evinced. The matter is at an exploratory stage. India is positively inclined to proposals of mutually beneficial Defence Cooperation with all friendly countries, including Kuwait.

Supply of spares from SLOVAK Republic

428. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the SLOVAK Republic is willing to supply spare parts for defence equipments to India as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 16th April, 1993;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is a fact that India is desperately in the need of spares for the Russian-supplied defence equipment and whether any meeting between the leaders/delegations of two countries held in this regard; is so, the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) to (c) A number of offers regarding defence supplies, including supply of spares, are received, from time to time from Russia/C.I.S./East European countries, including the SLOVAK Republic. These are then assessed in the light of the requirements of the defence forces which are periodically reviewed. Issues regarding defence supplies are taken up from time to time by Indian/Russian/C.I.S./East European delegations and mutually resolved. Details of the outcome of these meetings or the details of the offers received cannot be divulged in the interest of national security.

France bagging the jet fighter contract

429. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that U.S. and Soviet Governments had made a bid for a billion dollar contract for jet fighters;